



Greenville County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report*

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**Total children in county under
age 6: 28,000**

**Total Children in county
living in poverty: 12.9%**

Greenville County Highlights

- \$480,000 in new private and state dollars raised in 2009
- 15 new strategic partnerships with local schools, non-profits, churches and agencies formed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Living up to the challenge of challenging times"

Greenville First Steps, like most community based organizations faced the daunting task of thriving in a difficult economical environment, while stepping up to provide services to families who need help more than ever. The staff and volunteers of Greenville First Steps answered the call by paving new partnerships with community agencies.

Through BABYSTEPS (a 7-week program for pregnant teens and partnership with Little Steps and the YWCA), Nurse Family Partnership (a nurse home visitation partnership with the Greenville Hospital University Medical Center) and expansion of Countdown to Kindergarten (a Greenville County School partnership providing summer-long home visits), we strengthened our role as a creative collaborator, contributing over \$1.4 million in public and private funds to impact the lives of children and families in Greenville County.

Even in the midst of nearly 25% reduction in state funding, we raised over \$480,000 in new private and state dollars to strengthen partnerships within our community. As we continue to further sustainable growth, and foster new and deeper partnerships, we will be positioned to continue to be a driving force in school readiness outcomes within Greenville County.

Derek Lewis
Executive Director
Greenville First Steps

First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:

Family Strengthening: A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

Healthy Start: Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

Quality Child Care: Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

Early Education: Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

School Transition: The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

2008-09 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

BABYSTEPS

Program Description: Recognizing that Greenville has the highest number of pregnant mothers in the state of South Carolina, Greenville First Steps entered into a partnership with the YWCA and Little Steps to develop a pilot summer-long program to work with teen mothers to prepare them both for motherhood and to help reduce the likelihood they will drop out of school. Using funds from the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, BABYSTEPS provided teens with career training, parenting classes, positive discipline, and field trips to local social service providers. The program also provided the mothers with a daily healthy breakfast and lunch which they helped prepare with a certified nutritionist.

Program Results:

- 30 teens were enrolled in the program, with an average of 12 attending daily
- Each teen participated in over 30 hours of parenting classes during the summer
- Each teen prepared a healthy lunch and breakfast for themselves and their peers
- Each teen spent 4 hours/week shadowing child care providers in the YWCA Child Development Center.

Play and Learn

Program description: Play and Learn is an innovative collaborative between Greenville First Steps and the faith community. Working with volunteers from local churches, First Steps provides an on-site weekly program that provides opportunities for adults to learn how to be their child's first teachers, provides books and resources to foster learning, and provides weekly parent/child activities to build on those first learning experiences

Program results:

- 3 churches participated in 2009. Planned expansion to serve 5 in 2010
- A new year-round curriculum was developed by a focus group including educators, volunteers, and First Steps staff and board members.
- 50 children participated in 2009. Planned expansion will serve 150 in 2010

HEALTHY START.

Nurse Family Partnership

Program description: Nurse Family Partnership is a home visitation program that provides approximately 150 families with one-on-one medical care and social services by a certified nurse. The Greenville Hospital University Medical Center, Greenville First Steps, and the Duke Endowment entered into this collaborative partnership to introduce Nurse Family Partnership to families in Greenville County. The program has 30 years of peer-reviewed data that proves its efficacy in reducing low-birth rates and infant mortality, as well as increasing self-sustainability of mother and reducing incarceration rates. This 7-year program was launched in April 2009.

Program results:

- 46 families were enrolled in this program in 2009 (program's capacity of 150 mothers should be reached by March 2010)
- Program began enrolling clients in April, so only 6 babies have been born in FY2009

EARLY EDUCATION.

High Scope Study: 3K/4K classroom with weekly home visit

Program description: Recognizing that teachers cannot prepare children for school on their own, Greenville First Steps has worked with some of our local partners, and High Scope to develop a 3K/4K half-day classroom that includes a weekly home visitation component. The pilot, a formal 3 year study conducted by High Scope, will track 65 3k/4k children who receive a weekly home visit from their child's teacher and measure those outcomes with children from the community who are in similar classrooms but do not receive the weekly visit.

Program results:

- 65 children at 3 locations
- 95% of children received 3-4 home visits monthly in the first year (compared to 1.6 visits/month through the Parents as Teachers program)

Parents as Teachers (PAT)-Greenville County School District

Program description: Parents as Teachers provides parent and family education and enrichment through bi-weekly home visitation. Most PAT providers are Greenville County School District employees with extensive experience in learning styles and needs of young children and their parents. National research has found that PAT is generally most successful when allied with another long-term education intervention (such as a parent in a GED program, a child enrolled in a 3K or 4K classroom, or a family enrolled in a Family Literacy program). To be faithful to this model, Greenville County First Steps requires all families involved with PAT to be engaged in multiple long-term interventions. Results have shown that parents are more engaged, better aware of child's needs, and have a stronger commitment to bettering the child's home environment while simultaneously bettering the parent's condition (through returning to school, work, or participating in a GED or ESOL program).

Program results:

- 421 children served - representing 413 families
- Average KIPS Pre Score: 2.73 Average KIPS Post score: 3.45 Matched KIPS difference: .72
- PAT is successfully engaging parents in deliberate attention to their child's learning and well-being. Additionally, dual intervention is providing incentives and encouragement to parents to seek other service providers to help with the needs of their family.

SCHOOL TRANSITION.

Countdown to Kindergarten

Program description: Take a moment and think back to your child's first day of kindergarten. Remember the anxiety you felt, the million questions you had, the nervous energy your child showed, and how, even though you knew it would be alright, there was still this small voice saying "if only i knew ____, I would feel more comfortable leaving my child alone all day."

Now, imagine that you are a single mom. Imagine you're a 20 year old, who got pregnant in high school. Imagine you had a bad experience at school and dropped out before graduation, and are fearful to put your child through that. Imagine you could not speak English well enough to read those letters from your child's teacher. Take those same questions and concerns you had, compound them by social complexities of poor health, low income, language barriers and the fear of the unknown. Those questions you have are still there, but now are compounded by a hundred questions that you know will never be answered.

And we wonder why children from these circumstances are not "ready to learn" the first day of school?

Several years ago, Greenville First Steps launched Countdown to Kindergarten. The initiative, targeting the most at risk families from local Title I schools, provides funding for a seven week home visitation school readiness project for families who need that extra support through this difficult transition time. Countdown to Kindergarten provides rising K5 children and their families with tools to help ensure a smoother transition into kindergarten.

Program results:

- 100 families were served from 5 Greenville County Title I schools
- 95% of families served visited their child's teacher's classroom and met the teacher during the summer
- 64% of parents participating did not graduate from High School
- 82% of families were participants in the Free/Reduced lunch program

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Expenditures</u> By Funding Source	
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>)	\$ 1,023,209
E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>)	\$ 152,276
Lottery Appropriation (<i>Fund 35</i>)	\$ 0
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 60</i>)	\$ 0
C.O.E. Appropriation (<i>Fund 65</i>)	\$ 0
N.F.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 70</i>)	\$ 436,152
State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>)	\$ 46,432
Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>)	\$ 321,622
Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>)	\$ 50,000
In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>)	\$ 190,939
TOTAL:	\$2,220,630

<u>Expenditures</u> By Program / Strategy Name	
	\$
Nurse Family Partnership	\$ 578,879
Parents As Teachers	\$ 664,064
Play and Learn	\$ 41,354
BABYSTEPS	\$ 50,000
Half Day 3K/4k classroom with home visit	\$ 273,754
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$ 39,244
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$ 283,140
Child Care Training	\$ 33,918
	\$
	\$
	\$
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$ 126,547
Administrative Functions	\$ 54,165
TOTAL:	\$2,220,630

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
The Duke Endowment	\$436,152
Hollingsworth Fund	\$25,000
United Way of Greenville County	\$175,000
21 st Century Community Learning Center	\$50,000
Federal Dept of Ed Grant	
Bi Lo charities	\$10,134
Private Individual Donations	\$1,500
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL: \$	

Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 84.7%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)

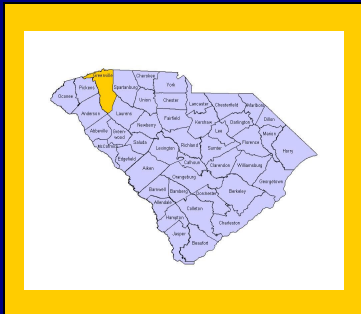
COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jane Watkins, Board Chair
 Gary Ray, Executive Committee, DSS Appointee (retired)
 Dr. Danny Varat, Executive Committee,
 Gary Ray, Board Chair DSS-retired
 Jane Watkins, Vice-chair, 1st Baptist retired
 Karen Allen, Greenville Library
 Scarlet Black, Cherrydale Elementary Principal
 Linda Brees, SAFE Kids upstate
 Kenia Brockman, parent/program participant
 Dr. Lorraine DeJong, Furman professor
 Lillie Hall, DHEC
 Midge Simpson, Sonshine Learning Center director
 Cynthia Sosebee, SHARE Headstart community engagement specialist
 Dr. Karen Sparkman, Greenville County Schools Early Childhood director
 Lissette Treanor, ESL Instructor Greenville Technical College

COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY09, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.

Your 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile will be inserted by OFS after this section. For your reference, a PDF of this risk profile was sent to you along with your Annual Report Template



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Greenville County

Total Children Under Six: 34,120

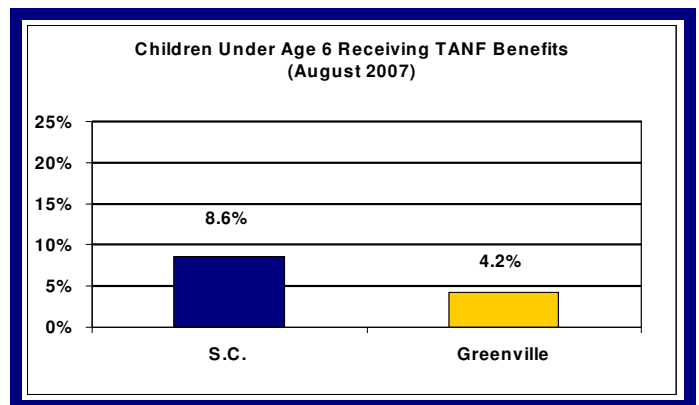
CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%

Greenville County (2007): 4.2%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 24 Greenville County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.
- 1,448 of Greenville County’s 34,120 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.



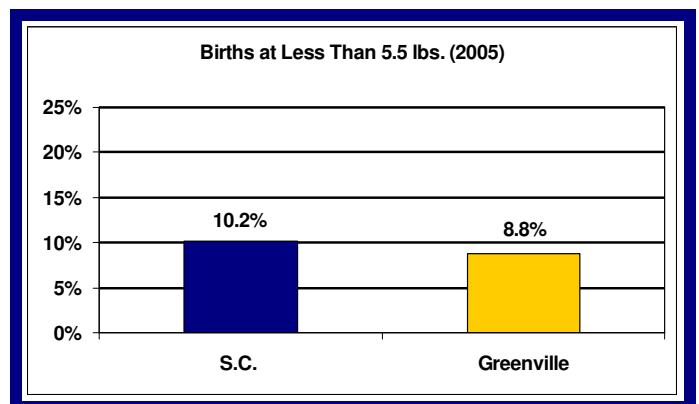
CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

Greenville County (2005): 8.8%

Fast Fact: 1 in 11 Greenville County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.
- Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.
- 520 of the 5,876 children born in Greenville County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



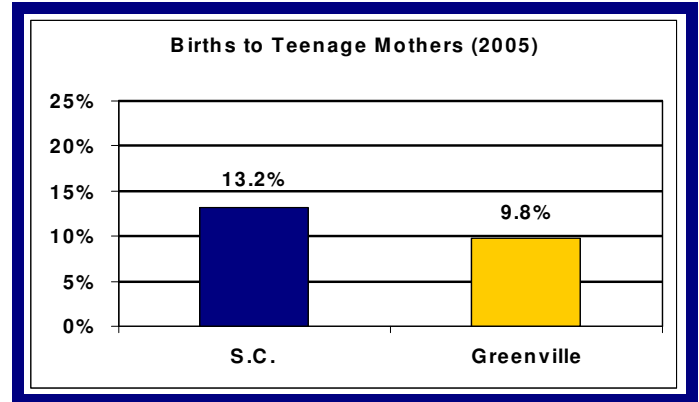
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Greenville County (2005): 9.8%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 10 Greenville County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.
- 575 of the 5,876 children born in Greenville County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



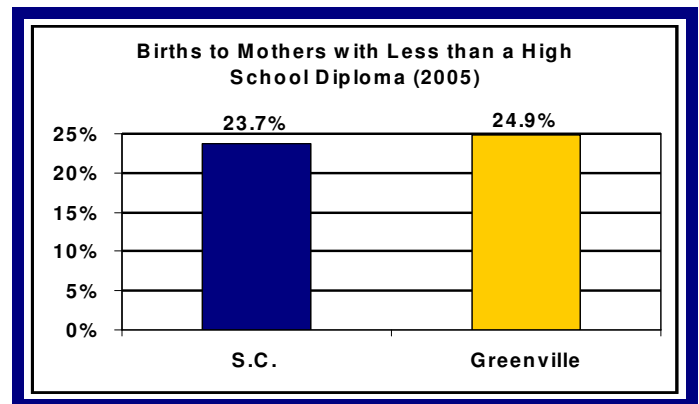
BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Greenville County (2005): 24.9%

Fast Fact: 1 in 4 children in Greenville County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.
- 1,465 of the 5,876 children born in Greenville County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.



All data provided by the SC Budget and Control Board’s Office of Research and Statistics